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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Situation of human rights in Nigeria

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 1997/53 of 15 April 1997,[1] the Commission on Human Rights decided to invite the Chairman of the Commission to appoint a Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights Nigeria, with a mandate to establish direct contacts with the authorities and the people of Nigeria, requested the Special Rapporteur report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session and to the Commission at its fifty-fourth session, on the basis of any information that might be gathered, and to keep a gender perspective in mind when seeking and analysing information, and requested the Secretary-General, in the discharge of his good offices mandate and in cooperation with the Commonwealth, to continue further discussions with the Government of Nigeria and to report on progress in the implementation of the resolution and possibilities for the international community to lend practical assistance to Nigeria in achieving the restoration of democratic rule and the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

2. After consultations with the Bureau, the Chairman of the Commission appointed on 24 June 1997 Mr. Tiyanjana Maluwa (Malawi), Professor of international law at the University of Cape Town, South Africa, as Special Rapporteur of the Commission on the situation of human rights in Nigeria.

3. On 12 August 1997, however, Mr. Maluwa informed the Chairman of the Commission that he had to decline this appointment in view of his current work schedule and other professional responsibilities and commitments.

4. Consequently, and following consultations with the members of the Bureau of the Commission, the Chairman of the Commission appointed on 16 October 1997 Mr. Soli Jehangir Sorabjee (India) as Special Rapporteur of the Commission on the situation of human rights in Nigeria.

5. In view of the fact that the new Special Rapporteur has only recently been appointed, the General Assembly at its fifty-second session will not have before it an interim report on the situation of human rights in Nigeria. The Special Rapporteur intends to report to the Commission at its fifty-fourth session as requested in Commission resolution 1997/53.

Notes

[1] Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 3 (E/1997/23), chap. II, sect. A.